

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 19086 291714Z
ACTION SCSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4957
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS PARIS 19086

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CARR
SUBJECT: LEGAL REPRESENTATION AVAILABLE TO AMERICANS
ARRESTED ABROAD

REF: STATE 147704

1. IN FRANCE LEGAL COUNSEL OF "PUBLIC DEFENDER" TYPE IS AVAILABLE TO ANY ACCUSED PERSON ON REQUEST. THE ACCUSED MAKES HIS REQUEST TO EXAMINING MAGISTRATE HANDLING CASE WHO ASKS LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATION ("CONSEIL DE L'ORDRE DES AVOCATS") TO DESIGNATE ATTORNEY. IF NO BAR ASSOCIATION EXISTS, PRESIDENT OF COURT MAKES SELECTION. FRENCH LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE ACCUSED TO HAVE LEGAL REPRESENTATION IF HE DOES NOT WANT IT.

2. GRATIS LEGAL REPRESENTATION IS READILY AVAILABLE IN PARIS AREA. MAGISTRATES GENERALLY MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HAVE LAWYER WITH ADEQUATE ENGLISH APPOINTED. THIS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, AND SOMETIMES LAWYER AND ACCUSED MUST COMMUNICATE THROUGH INTERPRETER.

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3. ACCUSED PERSONS AND PRISONERS IN THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT HAVE RARELY REQUESTED APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL. IN GENERAL, LITTLE DIFFERENCE HAS BEEN OBSERVED IN QUALITY OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION, WHETHER PRIVATELY RETAINED OR PUBLICLY FUNDED. CHIEF DIFFERENCE IS PROBABLY THAT APPOINTED ATTORNEYS DO NOT VISIT

PRISONERS AS FREQUENTLY AS LAWYERS OF THEIR OWN CHOICE
WOULD. ALSO, APPOINTED ATTORNEYS DO NOT SEEM AS ZEALOUS
AS PRIVATE ATTORNEYS IN NEGOTIATING REDUCTIONS OF CUS-
TOMS FINES IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING CASES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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